

# NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO

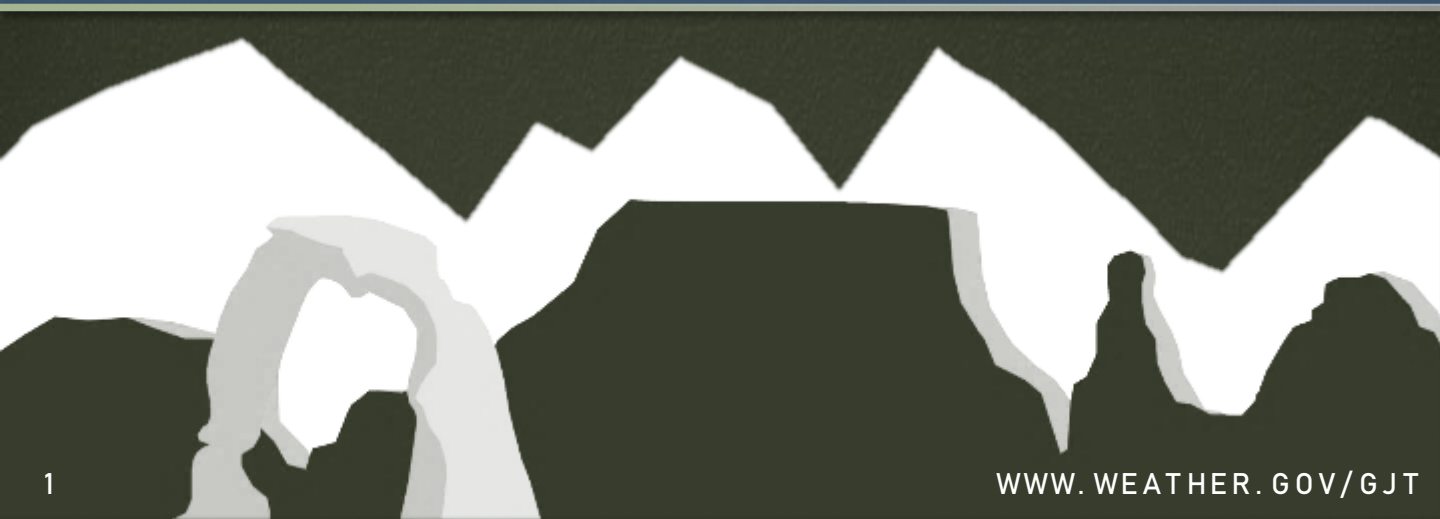


A LOOK  
BACK AT

## MARCH 2023

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

March was yet another month of below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Storm after storm swung through eastern Utah and western Colorado, with at best a day or two of a break in between. For the first week of the month, the northern mountains were favored for snow, but the second week brought a return of substantial accumulations to the central and southern mountains. As the pattern shifted a bit and the Atmospheric Rivers once again returned to the West Coast, the southern mountains became most favored for snow accumulations. While temperatures remained below normal throughout the month, the last week of March took the cake as far as cold temperatures were concerned. A potent cold front dropped through on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month, with highs the following day running 20-30 degrees F below normal. These moderated somewhat with the next system that moved in, but even still temperatures through the 28<sup>th</sup> remained 10-20 degrees below normal, with some areas setting record morning low temperatures. A strong and spring-like storm rounded out the month, bringing near normal temperatures for the last few days of March, bringing near-normal temperatures, strong, gusty winds, and the threat of mountain snow once again.



# MARCH 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



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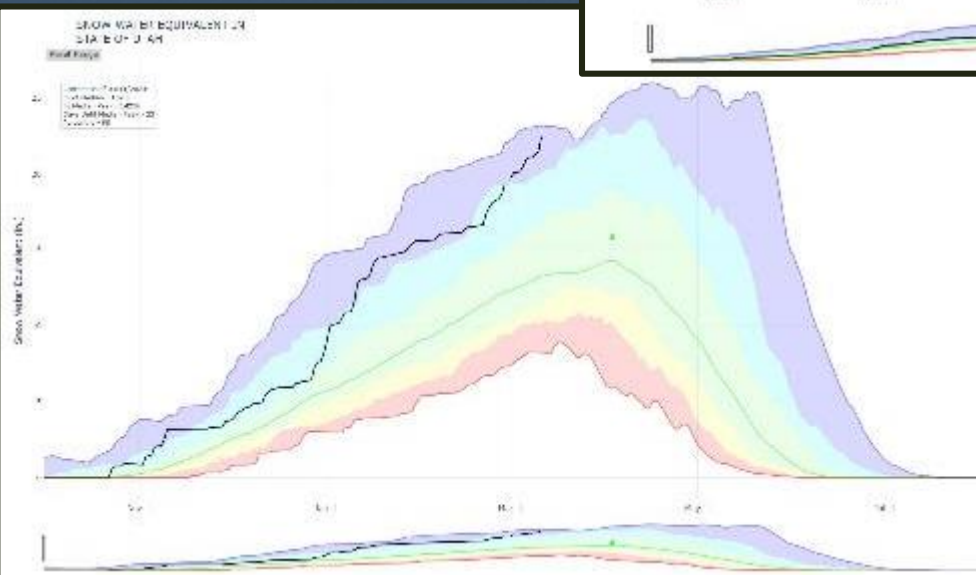
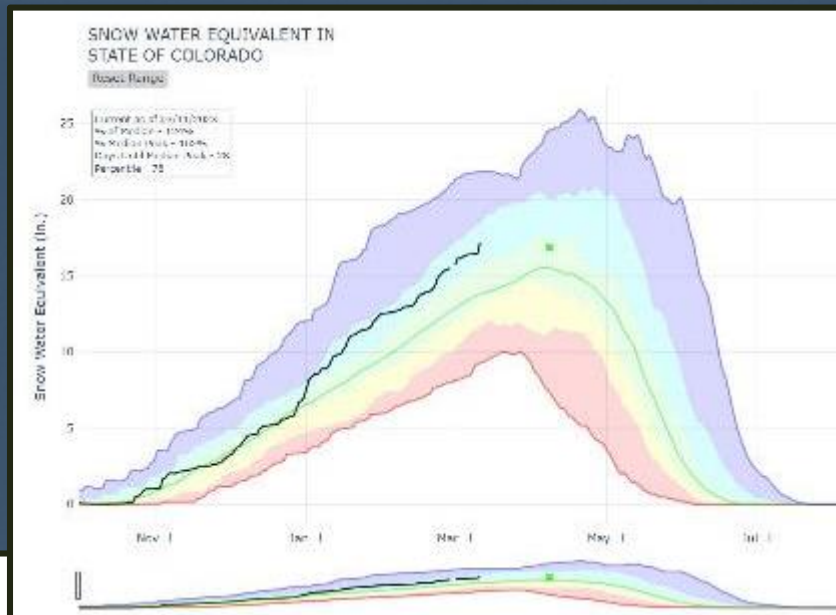
*NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas APRIL have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.*

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# STORY OF THE **ABOVE NORMAL** **MONTHS** **SNOWPACK**

*With the unrelenting cold and stormy pattern that the Western US found itself in for the first quarter of 2023, the snowpacks of eastern Utah and western Colorado continued to grow and grow. As of March 11<sup>th</sup>, the median snowpack in the state of Utah was nearing record levels. And, while Colorado was not close to record setting, the median snowpack was still substantially above normal. Several more significant storms impacted the states through the rest of the month of March, allowing the mountain snowpacks to continue growing.*

Graphs of Median Snow Water Equivalent for Colorado and Utah as of March 11, 2023, courtesy of the USDA's NRCS

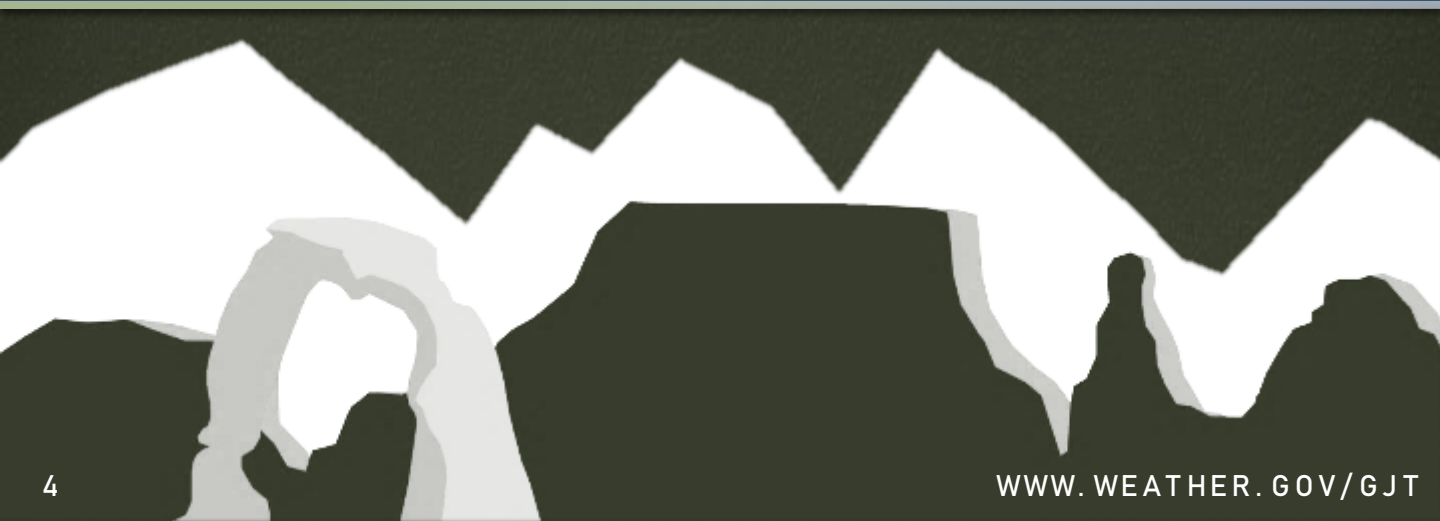


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# TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	25.8 <b>(-7.7)</b>	51 on 3/29	-6 on 3/28
Cortez, CO	36.3 <b>(-4.1)</b>	64 on 3/29	12 on 3/25
Craig, CO	21.9 <b>(-12.1)</b>	45 on 3/29, 30	-6 on 3/4, 18
Durango, CO	33.1 <b>(-4.8)</b>	58 on 3/29	7 on 3/4
Grand Junction, CO	38.6 <b>(-6.4)</b>	64 on 3/29	16 on 3/27
Meeker, CO	26.1 <b>(-10.4)</b>	53 on 3/29	1 on 3/4, 18
Montrose, CO	36.5 <b>(-5.6)</b>	58 on 3/29	13 on 3/25
Rifle, CO	34.3 <b>(-6.9)</b>	62 on 3/29	14 on 3/4
Canyonlands Airport, UT	39.0 <b>(-6.9)</b>	64 on 3/29	19 on 3/17, 18
Vernal, UT	23.7 <b>(-16.5)</b>	46 on 3/29	3 on 3/3, 4, 18



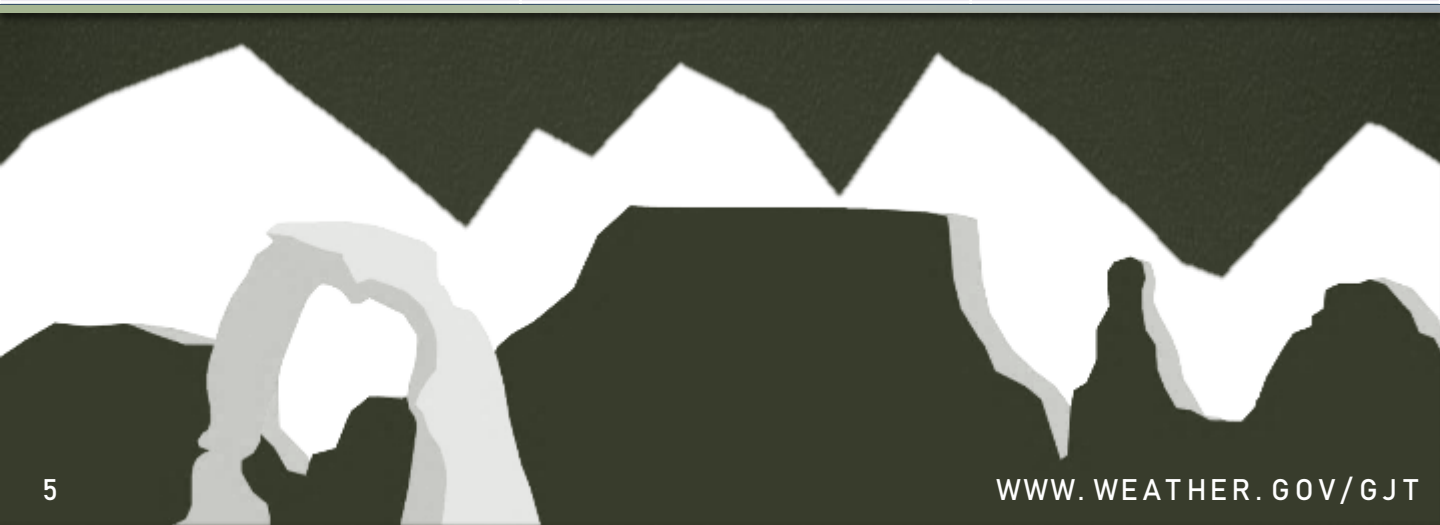


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# PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.77	+0.74
Cortez, CO	3.44	+2.60
Craig, CO	1.69	+0.70
Durango, CO	2.84	+1.97
Grand Junction, CO	1.70	+0.90
Meeker, CO	1.65	+0.58
Montrose, CO	1.10	+0.48
Rifle, CO	4.29	+3.53
Canyonlands Airport, UT	1.23	+0.69
Vernal, UT	0.47	-0.25

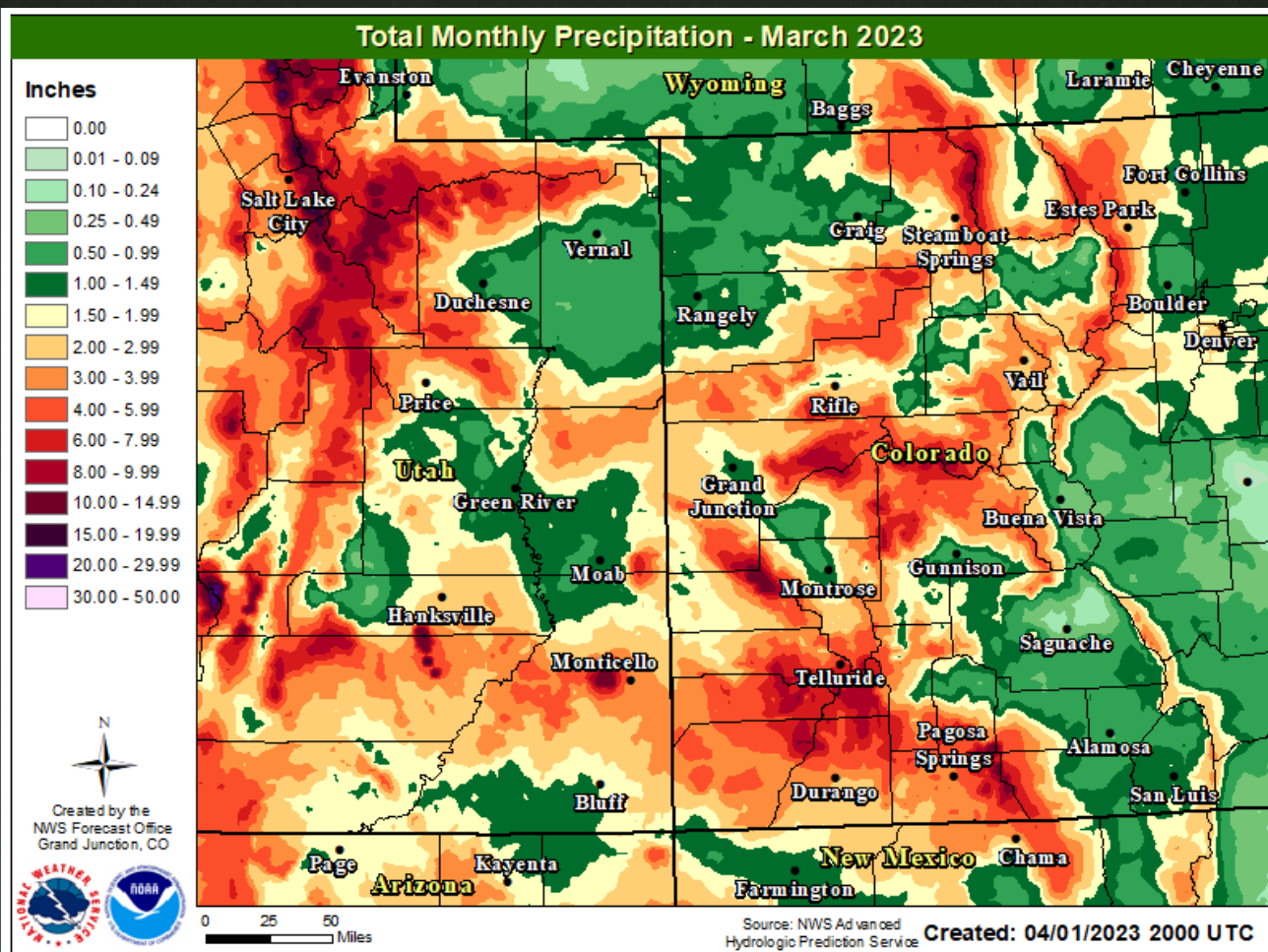


# MARCH 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



### TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



# MARCH 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



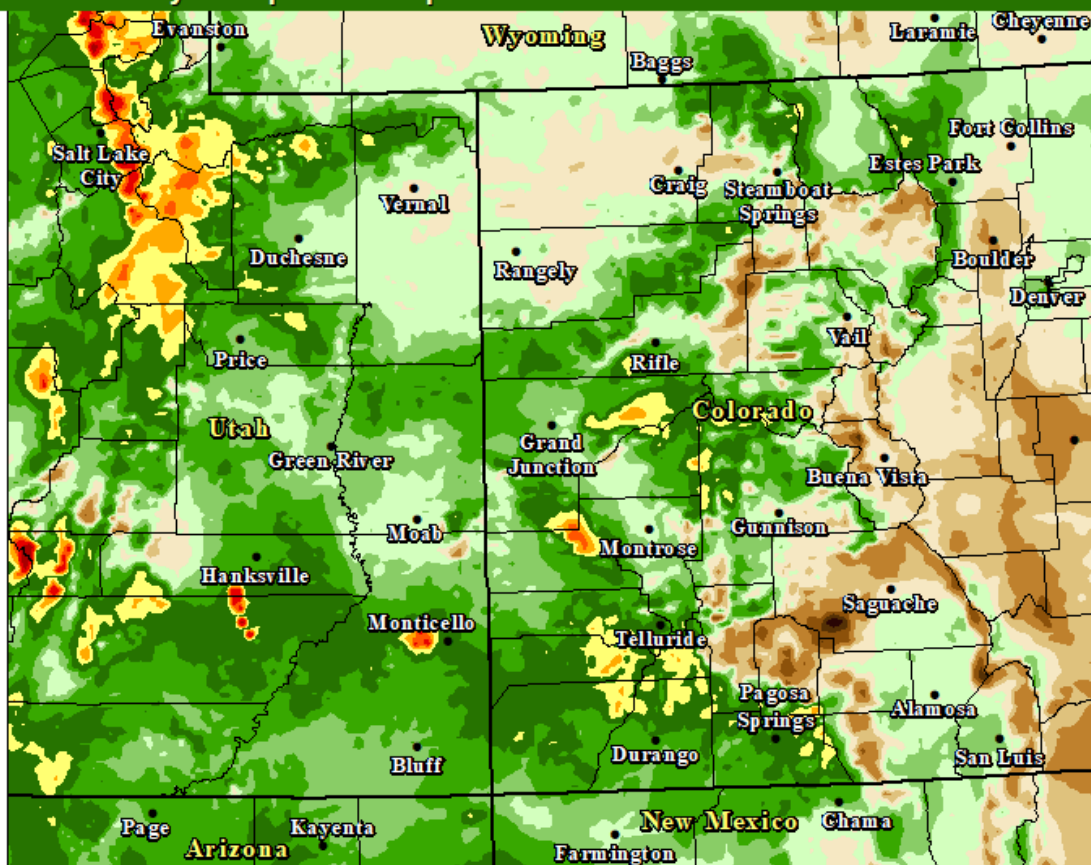
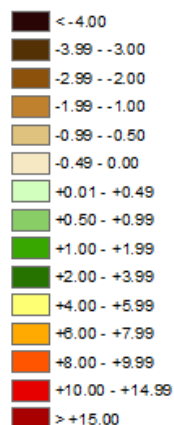
TOTAL  
MONTHLY

# PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Total Monthly Precipitation Departure From Normal - March 2023

Inches



Created by the  
NWS Forecast Office  
Grand Junction, CO



0 25 50  
Miles

Source: NWS Advanced  
Hydrologic Prediction Service  
Created: 04/01/2023 2000 UTC

# MARCH 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY  
RECORDS

# R E P O R T

*A total of 2 daily records were set across the primary climate sites*

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	March 15th	Precipitation	0.39 inches	0.38 inches, set in 1970
Grand Junction, CO	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Low Min Temperature	16F	16F, last set in 1931

High Max

Low Max

Precip

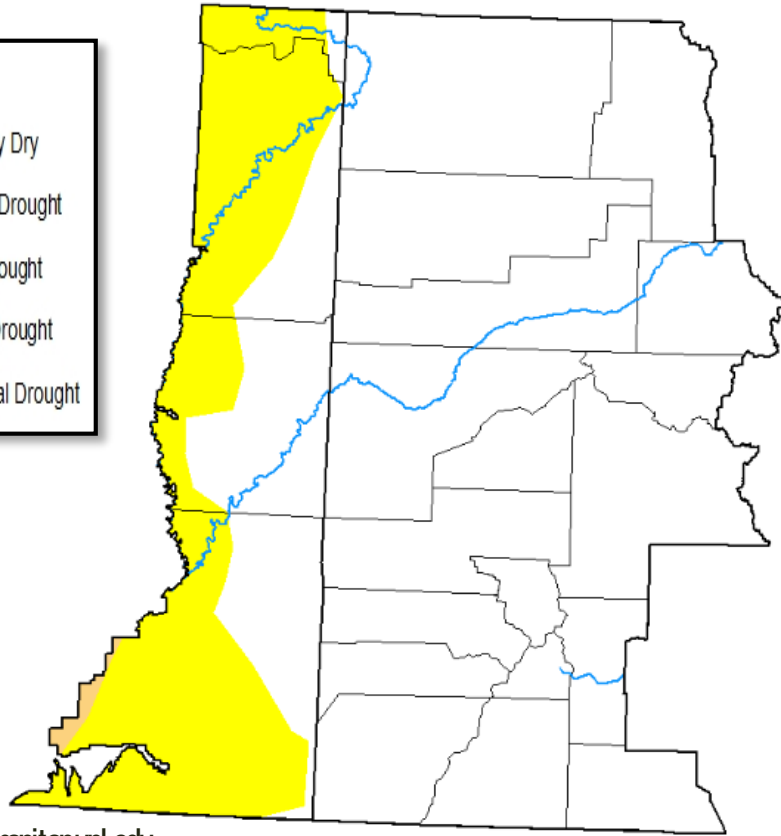
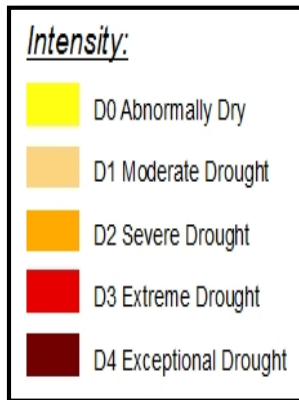
High Min

Low Min





*The latest drought update from the US Drought Monitor keeps western Colorado completely drought free. Across eastern Utah, conditions continue to improve, with only a sliver of Moderate (D1) drought remaining in far southeast Utah. The rest of southeast Utah, as well as most of northeast Utah, are in Abnormally Dry (D0) drought, with central eastern Utah and along the Colorado border seeing no drought category.*



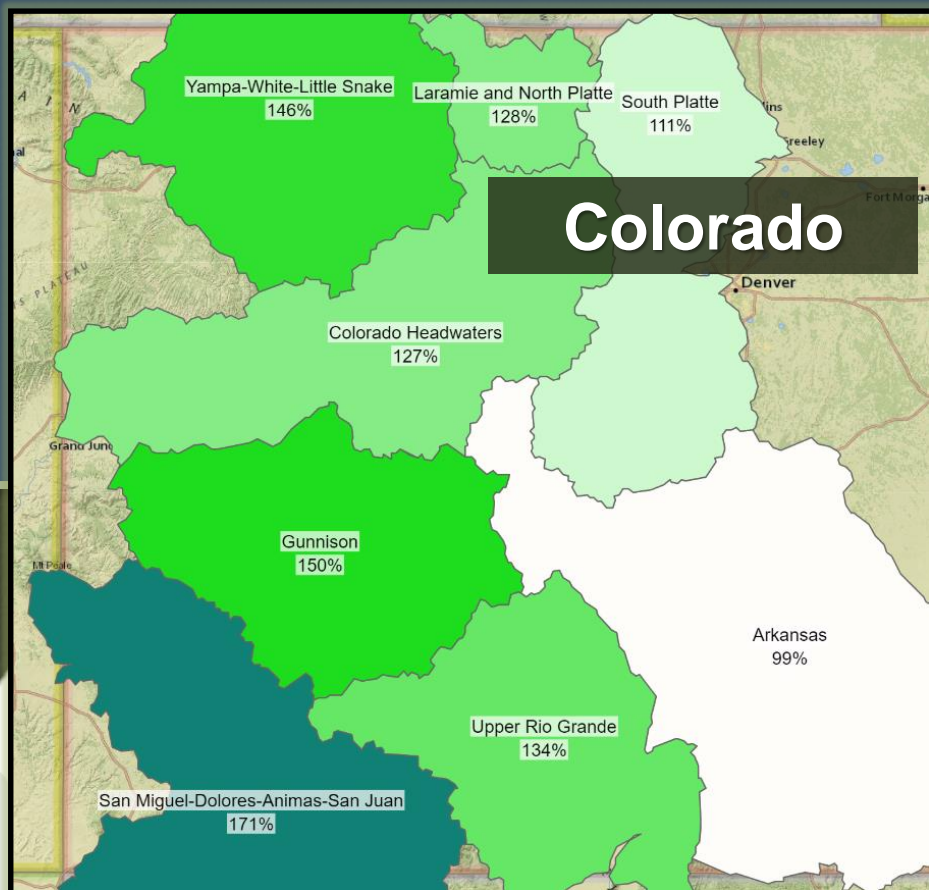
Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Utah

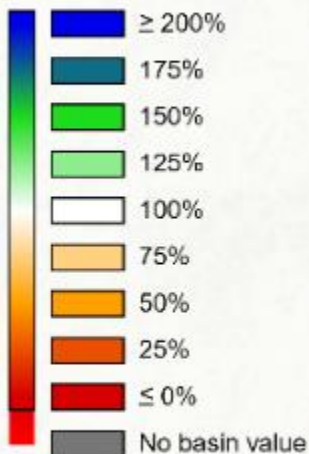
*Several wet storms in March have kept snowpacks above average across the West Slope. Across Western Colorado, Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), an indicator of the amount of moisture the snowpack contains, ranges from 125% of normal to 175% of normal.*

*In eastern Utah, SWE ranges from 155% of normal to 175% of normal across the northern basins, while the Southeast Utah basin is sitting at 260% of normal for the time of year.*



Colorado

Percent NRCS  
1991-2020 Median



Watershed Boundaries  
— State Watersheds

A P R I L  
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# OUTLOOK

## TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



*The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is leaning slightly toward below normal temperatures for the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado. Probabilities increase a bit over the eastern Uintah mountains, while across the San Juans, equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are currently forecast. In addition, the entire region is favored to see equal chances of above or below normal precipitation for April.*

**Below**

**Temperatures**

**Equal  
Chances**

**Precipitation**

**Equal  
Chances**